

DEPARTMENTS

CADD system enhances graphic capability

Acquisition of a new Sun Sparc Station has put the Alberta Research Council near the leading edge in the graphics field – good news for staff requiring assistance to prepare and print their materials.

Corporate Affairs, Alberta Geological Survey and Environmental Research and Engineering cooperatively purchased the computer aided design and drafting (CADD) system late last year. Since then, it has been used extensively to produce maps and diagrams for the new “Geological Atlas of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin”.

Jim Matthie of the department's Publishing and Graphics group operates the Sun Sparc. He says the system provides a full range of CADD capability, from simple line drawings to detailed

maps, and substantially reduces initial development time. This translates into savings for department clients.

“Prior to receiving this equipment we did our drafting and cartography using pen and ink or by scribing. Now, hard copy material can be entered into the system through a digitizing tablet or an 11x17 inch scanner, which allows us to input existing artwork, photographs and archived material and to modify it graphically. Clients can also transfer their digital data via the VAX. Subsequent changes and revisions can then be done and a new proof copy supplied in minutes.

“The range of service we can provide has also increased. Using Sun Sparc, we can generate everything from color overheads directly off the printer to color prints

and maps in all sizes.”

Department clients can also save time and money in printing. “Traditional printing can be expensive, especially when limited copies – fewer than 50 – of a four-color item are required.”

Two on-site printers provide a less-expensive alternative. The department can now print, in full-color, items ranging in size from one page to 44 inches wide by any length. Materials can be printed onto vellum, for further copying, on bond paper, or on cronar.

“Last year, files were sent to Calgary for printing at a cost of \$27 per map. Or we used pen plotters, which took hours and often gave unsatisfactory results. The same maps can now be printed quickly, in-house, at a fraction of the cost. Once a file of material is prepared, additional copies can be printed, inexpensively, on demand.”

Samples of the work being produced on this equipment are on display outside the Publishing and Graphics work area in Mill Woods. Anyone requiring further explanation or a demonstration should call Jim Matthie at 450-5124, or Lorne Bradley at 450-5120.



Jim Matthie, Publishing and Graphics, Corporate Communications.

AT A GLANCE

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Newsline is a monthly publication for the employees of the Alberta Research Council.

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**ALBERTA
RESEARCH
COUNCIL**

Division/department appointments announced



Dr. Bob Fessenden

Dr. Bob Fessenden is the new vice-president of Development and Planning. The position had been vacant since **Dr. Brian Barge's** appointment as president last summer.

Dr. Fessenden now has responsibility for an expanded portfolio, including Technology Management and Corporate Marketing. This is in keeping with the Research Council's corporate plan, *A Vision to the Year 2000*, in which the organization committed to place a greater emphasis on marketing its expertise and programs, and to technology assessment and management.

Dr. Fessenden has been with the Re-



Dr. Duke duPlessis

search Council since 1982, when he joined the organization as head of the Soils Department. Since then, he has held increasingly responsible positions, including vice-president of Natural Resources and vice-president, Resource Technologies.

Dr. Duke du Plessis has been appointed vice-president, Resource Technologies. It is his intention to relocate to Calgary.

Dr. du Plessis joined the Research Council as head of the Coal Research Department in 1979. He was later named head of the Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department.

Both appointments were effective



Dzung Nguyen

January 1, 1992.

Dzung Nguyen was appointed head of the Coal and Hydrocarbon Processing Department effective December 16, 1991. Dzung has been with the Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department since he joined the Research Council in 1980. Most recently, he was responsible for international technology transfer and major research programs, involving petroleum recovery, production, upgrading and environment.

Dr. Gordon Bird is now acting head of the Oil Sands and Hydrocarbon Recovery Department.

LIGHTER SIDE

Celebrate Family Day

How are you and your family planning to celebrate Family Day, February 17?

If you have not yet decided, you might find the idea page developed by the Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families useful. Some of the suggestions offered include:

- interview family members who can share their traditions, history and lifestyle in previous generations (consider recording the interview for future generations),
- have all family members contribute to the planning of a special family event, or
- plan a family reunion.

"Strengthening Family Ties" is the theme of this year's event. Stockwell Day is a MLA and chairman of the Premier's Council. He says the theme, "emphasizes the importance of strong, healthy bonds among family members and the effort and investment required to develop and maintain them. Family time, communication, sharing values, developing self esteem and sustaining appropriate connections even where there are difficulties, are all highlighted in this theme."

Anyone who would like a copy of the idea page can contact Mary Schmidtke in Corporate Affairs at 450-5144 (SATURN::SCHMIDTKE).

CELEBRATING



ALBERTA'S FAMILIES

Appraisal tips for staff

Many Alberta Research Council employees will participate in annual performance appraisals over the next few months. Wolf Gut, Human Resources Department, has prepared the following tips to help staff make the appraisal process more personally rewarding.

1. Take a proactive role in your own appraisal. Prepare an activity report of your past year's accomplishments; give a critical assessment of your own successes and failures; suggest improvements for yourself, the system and your supervisor that will make you more effective.
2. If you are uncertain about what your supervisor might say, ask him/her for specific feedback three or four times during the year. For instance, you may ask: Are you satisfied with my performance? Is there any area you feel is not being handled well enough? Are you getting enough information from me? You might also suggest to your supervisor that he/she ask you the same questions.
3. Develop some objectives for your interview. Do you want more challenging work? A reassignment? More support from your supervisor? Specific training? Here is an opportunity to discuss your requirements.
4. Do not expect your supervisor to discuss performance pay at an appraisal interview. These decisions are usually made at a later date. You should leave the inter-

view, however, with a clear idea of what your supervisor thinks of your performance.

5. Participate in developing your objectives and activities for the coming year, including action plans to improve on your performance.

Anyone with questions about their appraisal or the appraisal process is welcome to call Wolf at 450-5139.

Statutory holidays listed for 1992

The following is a list of the statutory holidays Research Council employees are entitled to this year. These dates have also been highlighted in the corporation's 1992 calendar, sent to all staff in December.

Wednesday, **Jan. 1** - New Year's Day
 Monday, **Feb. 17** - Family Day
 Friday, **Apr. 17** - Good Friday
 Monday, **Apr. 20** - Easter Monday
 Monday, **May 18** - Victoria Day
 Wednesday, **July 1** - Canada Day
 Monday, **Aug. 3** - Civic Holiday
 Monday, **Sept. 7** - Labor Day
 Monday, **Oct. 12** - Thanksgiving Day
 Wednesday, **Nov. 11** - Remembrance Day
 Thursday, **Dec. 24** - Christmas Floater
 Friday, **Dec. 25** - Christmas Day
 Monday, **Dec. 28** - Boxing Day (in lieu of)

Employee changes

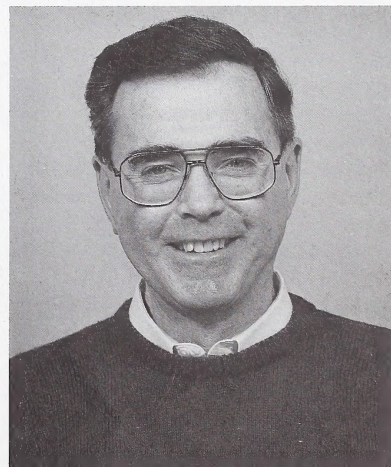
We welcome the following employees who have joined the Alberta Research Council in the past two months: **Michael Best**, **Gregory Coxon**, **Lyle Gordon**, **Jonathon Gregson**, Biotechnology; **Carl Gutwin**, Advanced Computing and Engineering; **Dr. Rizk Hanna**, **Dr. Wasimul Haque**, **Dr. Robert Ippolito**, **Dr. Cong Jiang**, **Jehangir Kahlon**, **Dr. Mohammed Kashem**, **Lynne Lechelt**, **Dr. Andrew Malcolm**, Biotechnology; **Dr. Abdul Mazid**, Manufacturing Technologies; **Zina Mosleh**, **Dr. Pandurang Nikrad**, **Dr. Richard Smith**, **Dr. Om Srivastava**, **Rod Szarka**, **Dr. Roman Szweda**, **Dr. Frank Unger**, **Dr. Andre Venot**, **Dr. Nandi Wang**, **Ken Wlasichuk**, Biotechnology. New employees joining the Biotechnology Department have been hired as a result of the Chembiomed transfer.

We wish the following well in their future endeavors: **Vinod Arora**, Environmental Research and Engineering; **John Barry**, Corporate Affairs; **Lin DeKang**, Advanced Computing and Engineering; **Kelly Green**, Human Resources; **Sieg Hollemeyer**, Manufacturing Technologies; **Sarah Jensen**, Administrative Services; **Slavko Stuhec**, Alberta Geological Survey.

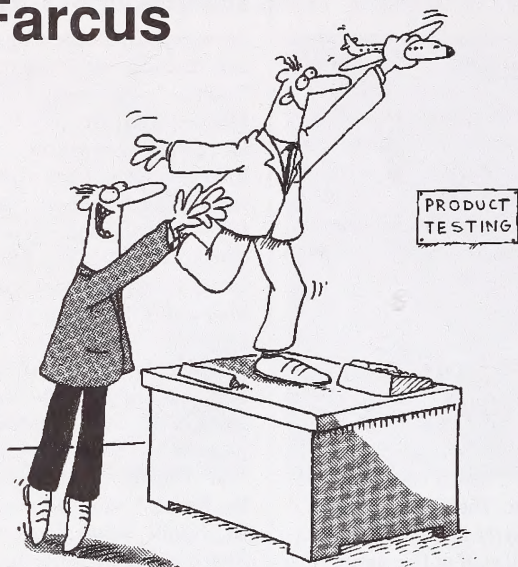
PROFILES

Wylie Hamilton

Title/department: Senior Research Officer, Alberta Geological Survey
Responsibilities: Project management, mineral resource evaluations/investigations
Length of employment: 26 years
Educational background: M.Sc. in Geology, University of Saskatchewan
Philosophy on life: If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well.
Current projects: Mineral deposits databases; Minerals chapter for Geological Atlas of Western Canada
Career background: Five years as petroleum geologist in the oil patch
Favorite book/author: "Ten Little Indians", Agatha Christie
Favorite movie: "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"
Favorite vacation: Skiing with my family
Family/pets: Wife, Maggie, two daughters, Norma and Jennifer
Hobbies: Beer and wine making (and sampling), collecting and restoring antique furniture, drawing and sketching.



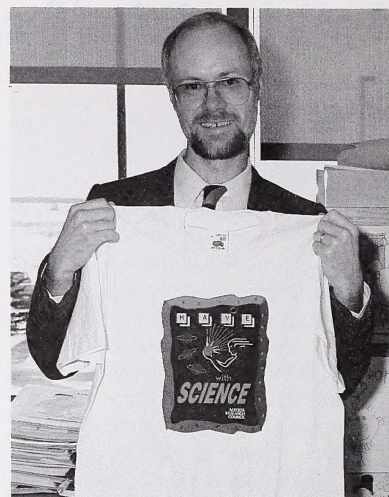
Farcus



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Okay, okay. But it's my turn next.

Volunteer rewarded



The first 10 employees profiled under Newsline's new "People Profile" format were entered in a draw for a Research Council tee-shirt to show our appreciation for their bravery. **Denis Plumb**, Financial Services, was our lucky winner. He was profiled in the October issue.

CORPORATE NEWS

Welcome Deyu Gao, visiting Chinese scientist

The Manufacturing Technologies Department recently welcomed a new member to their advanced materials research team in Edmonton. **Deyu Gao** arrived at the end of October from the Institute of Technical Physics, Heilongjiang Academy of Sciences in Harbin, China. He will spend the next year in Edmonton.

His work will focus on property improvement, alternative production methods and novel applications of superabsorbent polymers; particularly, a polymer the Chinese have combined with an expanding clay. This superabsorbent material, which can absorb up to 1000 times its weight in water, is currently used in China's oil fields for enhanced oil recovery applications. Many other applications will be explored as part of the research project.

Deyu has extensive expertise in radiation-induced polymerization. He also has international experience, having worked in Japan for both the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute and the University of Osaka.

A second researcher will arrive from Heilongjiang within the next few months to work with Deyu on the same project. The project was made possible by a research agreement with the Chinese, developed by **Dr. Robert Heimann**,

Manufacturing Technologies, during his visit to China in 1989.

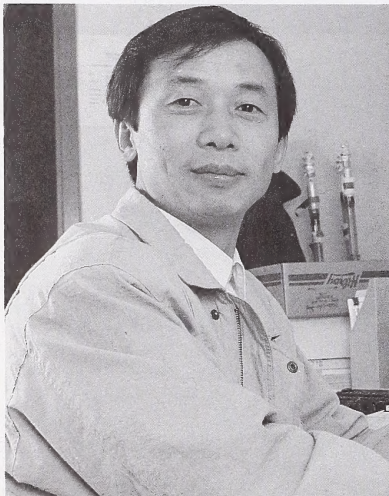
As an ultimate goal of the research exchange, the Chinese hope to some day build a pilot plant in Alberta and market any value-added products developed to North American customers.

LETTERS

Premier praise for calendar

Don R. Getty, the Premier of Alberta, wrote in December to thank Fred Bradley, MLA and chairman of the Research Council's Board of Directors, for a copy of our 1992 calendar.

He says, "You and members of the Research Council are to be commended for your efforts in running the Children's Art Contest to obtain drawings for your calendar. Seeing the different aspects of the Council through the eyes of a child is really refreshing and the outcome is impressive."



Deyu Gao

